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Sen. Garcia addresses citizen concerns on school funding

Lansing – In response to questions from concerned citizens, Sen. Valde Garcia (R-Howell) issued the following statement regarding funding for K-12 education.

“Many of my constituents have contacted me about the cuts made to K-12 education funding last month. To further demonstrate Michigan’s commitment to education, I want to clarify how much education funding is being cut. I also want to reassure everyone that, while we were forced to reduce K-12 spending in the budget, we were able to greatly lessen the blow.

“On Wednesday, it was announced that the per-pupil reduction would be just \$79 – much smaller than the \$196 cut originally proposed by the governor. However, revenues that came in higher than we had thought allowed us to make the cuts even smaller. The actual per-pupil cut will be just \$74.

“It is also important to put this in perspective with spending in other areas of state government. Since Fiscal Year 1999-2000, restricted revenue for school aid has increased \$694 million, or 7 percent, and state-funded appropriations have increased \$1.3 billion, or 13.4 percent. At the same time, other areas of state government have been making due with less and less, as general fund monies continue to shrink.

“My Senate colleagues and I have made education a top priority, and we will continue to work for quality schools for Michigan’s students. I welcome and appreciate input from my constituents, and I encourage you to contact my office if you have questions or concerns.”

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